are specified by the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) which also monitors and regulates its implementation. The radiation and environmental monitoring programmes reviewed by AERB and its safety committees has clearly shown that the safety of workers, the public and the environment is adequately ensured at the uranium mine and mills from the point of view of radiation and environment factors. In view of this, any incidence of eye diseases, handicap to children and cancer in the area cannot be attributed to mining activities of Uranium Corporation of India Limited (UCIL).

(d) The standards of permissible radioactive releases prescribed by AERB are complied with by UCIL which operates the mines and mills.

(e) Does not arise.

[English]

Titanium Industry

3384. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received by the Government for permitting foreign companies to enter into the Titanium Industry and also in the field of ilmenite mining in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) There is no specific proposal with the Government for permitting foreign companies to enter into the titanium industry and in the field of ilmenite mining in Kerala.

Renovation of Offices/Residences of Ministers

3385. SHRI R.L.P. VERMA : Will the Minister of URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any ceiling on expenditure for renovation, additon and alteration of Government bungalows;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the expenditure incurred on renovation, addition and alteration of office and residence of each Minister during the last five year, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF URBAN AFFAIRS AND EMPLOYMENT (DR. U. VENKATESWARLU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) (i) Annual monetary ceiling type-wise of the quarters/flats is given below :-

Type of Qtr./flats	Monetary ceiling (Rs.)
C-I, C-II	21000
VII, VIII	31500

(ii) Monetary ceiling in Government residences during the tenure of Ministers/MPs/Judges is as under :-

Category	Monetary ceiling (Rs.)
Ministers	100000
Judges	50000
M.Ps	30000

(c) The information is being compiled and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Tea Workers

3386. SHRI DWARKA NATH DAS : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware of pathetic conditions of labourers of sick and abandoned tea gardens in Assam; and

(b) if so, the specific measures being taken to rehabilitate such labourers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI M.P. VEERENDRA KUMAR) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Arms Supply

3387. DR. M. JAGANNATH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Russia has assured India that it will not sell arms to Pakistan;

(b) whether this guarantee is based on the fact that India is a major customer of Russian arms;

(c) whether Russia is unhappy for the delay on part of India in taking a decision on Russian offer of modern tanks;

(d) whether the absence of Indian orders may compel Russia to supply vital components to Ukraine which may supply the same to Islamabad in a tank deal; and

(e) the Government's reaction to the Russian offer of tanks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Such offers are received from time to time and duly considered on their merits.

[Translation]

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

3388. SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made arrangement for the pilgrims going to Kailash Mansarover this year;

(b) the facilities made available alongwith the number of pilgrims visiting each place;

(c) the arrangements made for the safety of life and property of the pilgrims during the pilgrimage; and

(d) whether full safety arrangement have been made to counter the rain and storm as it occurred last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The facilities provided by the Government include transportation; accommodation; medical assistance; security and escort cover; wireless communication links between Delhi and places enroute on the Indian side as also with China; aerial evacuation of pilgrims in case of emergencies; and; related publicity and other infrastructure of logistics.

In 1996, 435 pilgrims in 14 batches undertook the Yatra. As of 5 August, 1997, 340 pilgrims have proceeded on the Yatra in 10 batches. Another four batches are expected to go before the Yatra concludes in September, 1997.

The Government is taking every possible measure in cooperation with concerned Central and State police and other authorities to ensure the safety of life and property of the pilgrims, including in cases of natural disasters or in life-threatening situations.

[English]

Top Posts in Government

3389. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes appointed to the posts of Directors, Joint Secretaries, Additional Secretarios and Secretaries in the Government during the last three years;

(b) whether any steps have been taken in pursuance of provisions of Article 16(4) (c) of the Constitution to fill up top-most posts under the Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) During the three year period from August 94 to July 97, 45 posts of Directors, 29 posts of Joint Secretaries, 9 posts of Additional Secretaries and 5 posts of Secretaries/equivalent posts were filled by appointing officers beloning to SC/ST categories.

(b) to (d) While adjudging the suitability of officers for placement/appointment to senior posts, effort is made to ensure representation of SCs/STs to the extent possible.

Promotion Rules

3390. SHRI GIRIDHAR GAMANG : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Ministry had issued a letter regarding the promotion of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes to State Governments including Orissa;

(b) whether the Ministry had revised the letter after recent amendment to the Constitution relating to reservation in promotion under Article 16(4) and subsequent the Supreme Court Judgement on the same line; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by the State Governments including Orissa to implement the same while considering the promotions in State Service cadre officers belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.R. BALASUBRAMONIYAN) : (a) and (b) It was clarified to all Ministries/Departments of the Government vide instructions issued in August, 1993 that according to the directions of the Supreme Court in Indira Sawhney's case, the reservation for SCs/STs in the matter of promotion, would continue for five years from the date of the judgement i.e. upto 15.11.1997. A copy of these instructions was also forwarded to the Chief Secretaries of all the State Governments for information and appropriate action. No revision has been made in these instructions.

(c) The subject of reservation in the services under the State Governments is the exclusive concern of the concerned State Governments.